session with the Physiological Section of the Botanical Society of America and with the American Society of Plant Physiologists on "Ion Availability." Tuesday evening will be devoted to round table discussions on nomenclature and varieties, educational methods, experimental design and blueberries.

On Wednesday morning there will be a joint session on "Polyploidy" with the Genetics Society of America and the Botanical Society of America, and sessions on rootstocks and propagation, nutrition of vegetable crops and nutrition of ornamental plants. Wednesday afternoon will be given over to the business session of the society, at which matters of organization and publication policy and changes in the constitution and by-laws are scheduled for thorough discussion.

The Section on Education (*Dec. 30–31*) will hold a symposium on Monday morning on "Conservation Education." On Monday afternoon it will hold a joint session with the Section on Psychology, at which M. R. Trabue will deliver his address as retiring vice president on "Educational Research and the Defense of Democracy." At the same session E. L. Thorndike will present a paper on "Notes on the Psychology of Migration." On Monday evening the section will join in a dinner with the Section on Psychology.

On Tuesday morning the program will be divided into two sections. The program of one section will consist of papers by Donald D. Durrell, G. M. Ruch, P. J. Rulon, Marion Richardson and D. D. Lorge. The papers in the second section will be by Harry J. Baker, Arthur T. Jersild, Milton B. Jensen, Edward G. Olsen, W. C. Eells, and Marjorie T. Bingham and Edward T. Boardman. The Tuesday afternoon session will consist of papers by M. W. Keller, D. R. Shreve and H. H. Remmers (two papers), S. L. Eby, Paul A. Witty, Harold F. Clark, Harold C. Bingham and Alice L. Brown.

The Society of the Sigma Xi (*Dec. 30*) will hold its annual convention on Monday at 4 P.M. On Monday evening the nineteenth annual lecture under the joint auspices of the association and the society will be delivered by Anton J. Carlson on "Science versus Life."

The American Nature Study Society (*Dec. 26–28*) will begin its meeting on Thursday evening with a program, arranged by Charles E. Mohr, on "Acquainting Philadelphians with Natural Study through Field Trips and Amateur Research Projects." The program on Saturday, arranged by E. Laurence Palmer, will be on "Nature Education's Contribution in an International Emergency." At a Saturday morning breakfast George W. Jeffers will be the guest speaker.

The American Science Teachers Association (*Dec. 30*) will hold two sessions and a luncheon on Monday. At the morning joint session with the American Association of Physics Teachers, Albert E. Marshall will present a paper on "New Types of Glass and New Techniques," Richard M. Sutton, president of the American Association of Physics Teachers, will present the Oersted Medal to an outstanding teacher of physics, and T. F. Joyce will present a discussion and demonstration of television. At the luncheon Albert F. Blakeslee will deliver an address on "Taste and Smell." The program for the afternoon session is a symposium on "The Place of Science in General Education," the speakers on which include Watson Davis, Oscar Riddle and K. Lark-Horowitz.

Gamma Alpha Graduate Scientific Fraternity (*Dec. 28*) will hold a luncheon on Saturday noon.

Sigma Delta Epsilon Graduate Women's Scientific Fraternity (*Dec. 27–Jan. 1*) will hold a luncheon for all women in science on Friday noon.

The National Association of Science Writers (*Dec. 29*) on Sunday morning will present a symposium on "Science Reporting in the World Crisis." After the presidential address by G. B. Lal, retiring president of the organization, there will be a series of brief addresses by such scientists as Albert F. Blakeslee, Edwin Grant Conklin and Walter B. Cannon. Then Waldemar Kaempffert, of the *New York Times,* David Dietz, of the Scripps-Howard Papers, Howard Blakeslee, of the Associated Press, John J. O'Neill, of the *New York Herald-Tribune,* Jane Stafford and Watson Davis, of Science Service, Thomas R. Henry, of the *Washington Star,* and probably other science writers for the daily press will participate in short discussions.

OBITUARY

HARRY BURR FERRIS

HARRY BURR FERRIS, son of Samuel Holmes and Mary Clark Ferris, was born in Greenwich, Connecticut, on May 21, 1865. His death occurred on October 12, 1940, after a brief illness. Educated at the Stamford, Connecticut, High School and Yale University, he received the degree of B.A. in 1887 and his M.D. in 1890.

For more than forty years, as E. K. Hunt professor of anatomy, Dr. Ferris served the Yale School of Medicine, the university and his community with devotion and unceasing effort. Beloved by every one who knew him, his generous sympathy, rare understanding and calm judgment will be missed by all. An extraordinary teacher, he gave of himself without stint in furthering the interests of students and in aiding them to lay a firm foundation for the practice of medicine.

He began his teaching of anatomy immediately after

a year of interneship in the New Haven Hospital. During this first year, he engaged in the practice of medicine, but this he soon gave up to devote his entire time to the work in the school. At this period the fortunes of the school were at low ebb, and for the next fifteen years Dr. Ferris, almost single-handed, taught all the courses in anatomy to the first-year students. He received sporadic help from time to time from practicing physicians, but for long periods he was in the classroom for more than forty hours a week. In spite of this heavy drain on his energy, he was uniformly patient with the adolescent mind, and even sheer stupidity did not ruffle his calm judgment.

His knowledge of anatomy was prodigious and his memory frightening. His lectures are unforgettable. They were delivered quietly, without notes, and were lucid and logical expositions of the facts of anatomy, enriched with frequent references to the problems of clinical medicine. Even the unusually heavy burden of teaching did not quench his interest in fundamental medical science. Precluded from being a prolific producer of scientific articles by his unselfish devotion to the needs of the student, he nevertheless kept alive an eager concern for science. From this interest came occasional papers laboriously and carefully written in such time as he could steal from his teaching duties.

With the advent of Dr. Blumer as dean of the school in 1910, Dr. Ferris's path was made easier with the addition of first one and then two assistants until, at the time of his retirement in 1933, the department had been built up to a personnel of five full-time members. Dr. Ferris was ever unmindful of self and labored constantly to further the interests of his staff. Even though added members made his labors less continuous, yet he always did far more than his share in order that his staff might have time for productive research. He was completely uninterested in fame and fortune, striving always for what he deemed the best interests of the school and its personnel.

Dr. Ferris was one of a group of six great teachers of anatomy in the past generation. With Mall of Johns Hopkins, Piersol of Pennsylvania, Huntington of Columbia, Huber of Michigan, Jackson of Minnesota, stands Ferris of Yale. Profound in their knowledge of anatomy, expert in its exposition and jealous of its traditions, they stood for a concept of anatomy which has practically disappeared from the land. They believed in anatomy as a science, that one could never know too much of it; but they never forgot that anatomy was part of medical science and that the students who went through their hands would eventually be physicians. They believed that anatomy could be reified through examples drawn from the clinic, quite as successfully as from animals used in the experimental laboratory.

With the passing of Dr. Ferris, a chapter is closed; a chapter which can be opened only in memory. To all who knew him, Dr. Ferris will always be remembered as a great anatomist, a great teacher and, greatest of all, a great friend.

H. S. BURR

YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ELVIN L. VERNON

AFTER an illness of three months, Dr. Elvin L. Vernon died on September 27, 1940. He is survived by his wife and son.

He was born in Prescott, Washington, in 1908. After attending the University of Alaska for two years, he returned to this country and completed his undergraduate training at Oregon State College, where he received a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering in 1928. He went to the University of Washington for some graduate work, then to the University of Wisconsin, where he was in 1932 granted a doctor of philosophy degree in physical chemistry and mathematical physics.

During his years at Wisconsin, he made a theoretical study of solutions of strong electrolytes with H. Falkenhagen, and three papers, on the viscosity and on the dielectric constant of such solutions, were published. For his doctorate thesis, he carried on experimental work with Farrington Daniels on the kinetics of the dissociation of ethyl bromide. The results of this work were later published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society.*

He was awarded a post-doctorate fellowship to continue his research; after completing this, he turned to the field of teaching. Following his earlier experience as assistant in the chemistry laboratories at Wisconsin, he accepted a position with the People's Junior College in Chicago, where he instructed in chemistry and physics.

Later, at Harvard University, he again took up research, with a study in mathematical physics with A. S. Coolidge and H. S. James. A paper "On the Determination of Molecular Potential Curves from Spectroscopic Data" was published, and Dr. Vernon was before his death extending the methods and computations, there applied to the hydrogen molecule, to other elements.

From Harvard he went to the faculty of the City College of New York, and had completed a year there, teaching chemistry, when he was suddenly taken ill.

His ability had been recognized by several honorary societies; he was a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Lambda Upsilon and Kappa Kappa Psi. He had also joined several professional societies: the American Chemical Society, the American Mathematical Society and the Society of Rheology.